

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 SNM-05  
/085 W

-----006125 031006Z /14

O P 030845Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7769  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3512

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, AF  
SUBJECT: MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME

1. I HAVE BEEN GIVING EXTENSIVE THOUGHT TO THE ORGANIZATION AND SUBSTANCE OF MY FIRST OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE NEW REGIME, AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR THIS IMPORTANT STEP.

2. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER OUR RESPONSE TO THE REGIME'S REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION BY THE MORNING OF

THURSDAY, MAY 4, OR -- AT THE VERY LATEST -- ON SATURDAY, MAY 6 (FRIDAY IS THE MUSLIM HOLY DAY AND ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE CLOSED). AFTER THAT ACT HAS BEEN PERFORMED ROUTINELY BY THE EMBASSY'S PROTOCOL OFFICER, I PROPOSE TO HAVE OUR PROTOCOL OFFICER CALL THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND REQUEST AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH NUR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER.  
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ALTHOUGH I HAD EARLIER GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO LEAVING IT UP TO THE AFGHAN PROTOCOL PEOPLE TO DECIDE THE LEVEL OF INITIAL CONTACT, I AM NOW MORE INCLINED TO AIM SPECIFICALLY FOR A TARAKI APPOINTMENT BECAUSE: (A) OTHER AMBASSADOR HERE, INCLUDING THE INDIAN, HAVE BEEN CALLING ON HIM AND OUR EMBASSY SHOULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE RELEGATED TO A LOWER LEVEL OF CONTACT; (B) WE WANT TO AVOID GIVING AN UNNECESSARILY HOSTILE

OR ALOOF IMPRESSION AT THIS EARLY STAGE.

3. WHEN I SEE TARAKI, I PROPOSE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING THREE MAJOR POINTS ABOUT US-AFGHAN RELATIONS.

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO ENDORSE THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF AFGHANISTAN.

B. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, THIS HAVING BEEN OUR MAIN GOAL HERE FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

C. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HOPES THAT THE STABILITY OF THE REGION WILL CONTINUE TO BE STRENGTHENED AND IMPROVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN HAS ALREADY STATED ITS INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE AFGHANISTAN'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER.

4. I ALSO PROPOSE TO MENTION BRIEFLY TWO BILATERAL SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US:

A. HUMAN RIGHTS: DISTRESSED BY THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED OF RECENT DAYS HERE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL BE JUDGING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT BY ITS ACTIONS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD DURING COMING MONTHS.

B. AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR PRODUCERS OF ILLICIT OPIUM. WE ARE GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT LOCAL UN EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD ARE NOW BACK AT WORK, AND HOPE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO INTERDICT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, ERADICATE OPIUM PRODUCTION, AND PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR ADDICTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

5. FOLLOWING MY MEETING WITH TARAKI I WOULD START TRYING TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH OTHER OFFICIALS, PRESUMABLY BEGINNING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. I WOULD GIVE THEM, AS APPROPRIATE, BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF EXISTING US PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN (AID, PEACE CORPS, ICA, IMET, DEA) FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

6. THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED SOONEST.  
ELIOT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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